



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 13, 2006

DSBN and Phelps Homes launch Education Partnership

Today the District School Board of Niagara and Phelps Homes launched a partnership that will support student success in rural secondary schools. In April, the DSBN received \$102,200 from the Ministry of Education to develop a rural schools lighthouse program in residential building construction. The partnership with Phelps Homes of Grimsby will see 20 students learn about the home building industry first hand by working on the construction of a new house.

Building Construction Projects in Rural Areas matches local needs for skilled workers in the construction industry with the interests of students from the Beamsville and South Lincoln areas. The program aims to re-engage students through co-op and apprenticeship opportunities in the construction industry. These workplace placements will also be supported with newly developed eLearning courses in construction technology. The semester-long program allows students to earn four high school credits – two in Construction Technology and two in Co-operative Education.

"This is a wonderful partnership with Phelps Homes," said Warren Hoshizaki, DSBN Director of Education. "It means that our students will have an opportunity for hands-on learning from professionals in the skilled trades. Our students will learn skills that are key to success in the home building industry and be eligible for apprenticeships through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program."

"Phelps Homes is very proud of our partnership with the District School Board of Niagara," said Paul Phelps, President of Phelps Homes. "Our company and all its employees are enthusiastic about participating in a program which enables us to give back to the community. Programs such as this are critical and vital to the new home construction industry. The young men and women who will assist in building one of our new homes are the future skilled trades people who are needed in this industry. "

The construction begins with students on-site next week and continues through to the completion of the home in January.

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education, 905-641-1550 ext. 4100

Paul Phelps, President, Phelps Homes, 905-945-5451

Reference:

Tara Hall, Communications Officer, 905-641-2929 ext. 4160

District School Board of Niagara

191 Carlton Street * St. Catharines * ON * L2R 7P4 * 1-905-641-1550 * Fax: 1-905-685-8511
Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education and Secretary